

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Shutaro NAKANISHI

Serial No.: 10/580,796

Filed: May 26, 2006

For: SPREAD MAT

Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Confirmation No.: 7232

Customer No.: 27623

Attorney Docket No.: 0002936USU/3105

Mail Stop Missing Parts  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Dear Sir:

In accordance with applicant's duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, please find attached hereto form PTO-1449 listing information which may be material to the patentability of this application, filed concurrently herewith. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed:

- Within three (3) months of the filing date of the national application;
- Within three (3) months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.491 in an international application;
- Before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits;
- After the filing date or date of first Office Action, but before the mailing date of a final action under 37 C.F.R. §1.113, provided that this occurs prior to the issuance of a Notice of Allowance and provided that this I.D.S. is accompanied by either a certification as specified in 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) or the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p);
- After the filing date or date of first Office Action, but before the mailing date of a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. §1.311, provided that this occurs prior to the final action and provided that this I.D.S. is accompanied by either a certification as specified in 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) or the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p);

- After the mailing date of a final action under 37 C.F.R. §1.113, provided that this occurs prior to the issuance of a Notice of Allowance and provided that this I.D.S. is accompanied by a certification as specified in 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) and the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p); and
- After the mailing date of a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. §1.311, provided that this occurs prior to or subsequent to the payment of the Issue Fee and provided that this I.D.S. is accompanied by a certification as specified in 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) and the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p).
- Filing with RCE Under 37 CFR 1.114, thus no fee is required.

We are also enclosing copies of the non-US publications listed on the attached PTO-1449.

It should be understood that attention has been called to the references that have been deemed to be pertinent to the claimed present invention. In concluding what was pertinent, the criteria employed was considered most appropriate in light of the invention shown in the present application. However, the Examiner or others may deem some other criteria to be just as appropriate or more appropriate. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully urged to review the listed references and to make the usual careful independent search for other prior art that may be pertinent.

Respectfully submitted,



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March 16, 2007

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|--|---|------------------------------------|
| FORM PTO-1449<br><br>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION<br>IN AN APPLICATION<br><br>(Use several sheets if necessary) | Docket Number (Optional)<br>0002936USU/3105 | Application Number<br>10/580,796   |
|  | Applicant<br>Shutaro NAKANISHI              |                                    |
|  | Filing Date<br>26 May 2006                  | Group Art Unit<br>Not Yet Assigned |

## U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

|  | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE               | COUNTRY       | CLASS | SUBCLASS | Translation |    |
|--|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|-------|----------|-------------|----|
|  |                 |                    |               |       |          | YES         | NO |
|  | DE 40 11 302 A1 | October 10, 1991   | Germany       |       |          | X           |    |
|  | GB 1 247 373 A  | September 22, 1971 | Great Britain |       |          | X           |    |
|  |                 |                    |               |       |          |             |    |
|  |                 |                    |               |       |          |             |    |
|  |                 |                    |               |       |          |             |    |

## **OTHER DOCUMENTS** (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

|          |   |
|----------|---|
|          | Supplementary European Search Report for PCT/JP2004/006838, dated January 9, 2007 |
|          |   |
|          |   |
|          |   |
|          |   |
| EXAMINER | DATE CONSIDERED   |

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP §609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the applicant.